AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (New) A polymer composition comprising a polymer resin, a flash calcined kaolin clay filler and a titanium dioxide filler, wherein a weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to the titanium dioxide in the composition is in an amount less than or equal to about 10:1 and wherein the polymer resin has a refractive index of greater than or equal to about 1.45 when hardened and/or cured to a plastic material.

46. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the polymer resin is a polyolefin resin.

47. (New) The composition according to claim 46, wherein the polyolefin resin is chosen from homopolymers of ethene, propene and butene, and copolymers of ethane, propene, butene, and another monomer.

48. (New) The composition according to claim 47, wherein the polyolefin resin is a polyethylene resin.

49. (New) The composition according to claim 48, wherein the polyethylene resin is chosen from low density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, middle-density polyethylene, and high density polyethylene.

50. (New) The composition according to claim 49, wherein the polyethylene resin is chosen from low-density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene.

51. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the polymer resin is a polyvinyl chloride resin.

52. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay has a specific gravity less than or equal to about 2.4.

53. (New) The composition according to claim 52, wherein the flash calcined clay has a specific gravity less than or equal to about 2.2.

54. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay has a particle size distribution such that at least 50 weight % of the particles are smaller than 2μm.

55. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay has a particle size distribution such that from about 40 weight % to about 80 weight % of the particles are smaller than 2μm.

56. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay has a d_{50} ranging from about 1.4 μm to about 2.0 μm.

57. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay has a specific gravity of less than or equal to about 2.4, a particle size distribution such that from about 50 weight % to about 65 weight % of the particles are smaller than 2 μm, and a d_{50} ranging from about 1.4 μm to about 2.0 μm.

58. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay is obtained by exposing a particulate hydrous kaolin clay to a temperature of greater than or equal to about 500°C for a time less than or equal to 5 seconds.

59. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay is coated with an adherent coupling agent.

60. (New) The composition according to claim 59, wherein the adherent coupling agent is an organosilane coupling agent.

61. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the titanium dioxide has a median aggregate size ranging from about 0.2 μm to about 0.35 μm.

62. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to titanium dioxide ranges from about 1:100 to about 1:1.

63. (New) The composition according to claim 62, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to titanium dioxide ranges of from about 1:25 to about 1:1.

64. (New) The composition according to claim 63, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to titanium dioxide ranges from about 1:3 to about 1:1.

65. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount up to and including about 80%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

66. (New) The composition according to claim 65, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount ranging from about 40% to about 80%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

67. (New) The composition according to claim 65, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount less than or equal to about 30%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

68. (New) The composition according to claim 67, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount ranging from about 1% to about 10%, by weight relative the total weight of the composition.

69. (New) The composition according to claim 45, further comprising an additional inorganic filler.

70. (New) The composition according to claim 69, wherein the additional inorganic filler is a calcium carbonate.

71. (New) The composition according to claim 45, wherein the polymer resin is chosen from nylon 6, nylon 6,6, poly(ethylene) terephthalate, polyvinyl chloride, and polystyrene.

72. (New) The composition according to claim 71, wherein the polymer resin is a polystyrene resin.

73. (New) A polymer composition comprising a polyethylene resin, a flash calcined clay and a titanium dioxide, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to the titanium dioxide ranges from about 1:100 to about 1:1.

74. (New) The composition according to claim 73, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to titanium dioxide ranges from about 1:25 to about 1:1.

75. (New) The composition according to claim 74, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to titanium dioxide ranges from about 1:3 to about 1:1.

76. (New) The composition according to claim 73, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount less than or equal to about 80%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

77. (New) The composition according to claim 76, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount ranging from about 40% to about 80%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

78. (New) The composition according to claim 76, wherein the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount less than or equal to about 30%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

79. (New) The composition according to claim 76, wherein the the flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide are present in a combined amount ranging from about 1% to about 10%, by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

80. (New) A process for forming a plastic article comprising

combining a polymer resin, a flash calcined kaolin clay filler and a titanium dioxide filler, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to the titanium dioxide in the composition is in an amount less than or equal to about 10:1 and wherein the polymer resin has a refractive index of greater than or equal to about 1.45 when hardened and/or cured to form the plastic article.

81. (New) The process according to claim 80, wherein the plastic article is a polyolefin film.

82. (New) The process according to claim 80, wherein the plastic article is a polyethylene film.

83. (New) The process according to claim 80, wherein the plastic article is a polystyrene film.

84. (New) A process for preparing a polymer composition comprising a polymer resin, a flash calcined kaolin clay filler and a titanium dioxide filler, wherein a weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to the titanium dioxide in the composition is in an amount less than or equal to about 10:1 and wherein the polymer resin has a refractive index of greater than or equal to about 1.45 when hardened and/or cured to a plastic material, comprising

combining the the polymer resin, the flash calcined kaolin clay and the titanium dioxide to form a homogenous composition.

85. (New) The process according to claim 84, wherein the flash calcined kaolin clay and the titanium dioxide are mixed with the polymer resin to form a homogenous composition.

86. (New) The process according to claim 85, wherein separate premixes of (a) the polymer resin and flash calcined clay and (b) the polymer resin and the titanium dioxide are formed, and then combined, optionally together with an additional polymer resin.

87. (New) A polymer composition comprising a polyolefin resin and an opacifying amount of a mixture of titanium dioxide and a flash calcined kaolin clay.

88. (New) A polyolefin film comprising an opacifying amount of a mixture of a flash calcined clay and titanium dioxide.

89. (New) A plastic article comprising a polymer composition, said polymer composition comprising a polymer resin, a flash calcined kaolin clay filler and a titanium dioxide filler, wherein the weight ratio of the flash calcined clay to the titanium dioxide in the composition is in an amount less than or equal to about 10:1 and wherein the polymer resin has a refractive index of greater than or equal to about 1.45 when hardened and/or cured to form the plastic article.

90. (New) The plastic article according to claim 89, wherein the plastic article is a polyolefin film.

91. (New) The plastic article according to claim 89, wherein the plastic article is a polyethylene film.

92. (New) The plastic article according to claim 89, wherein the plastic article is a polystyrene film.